

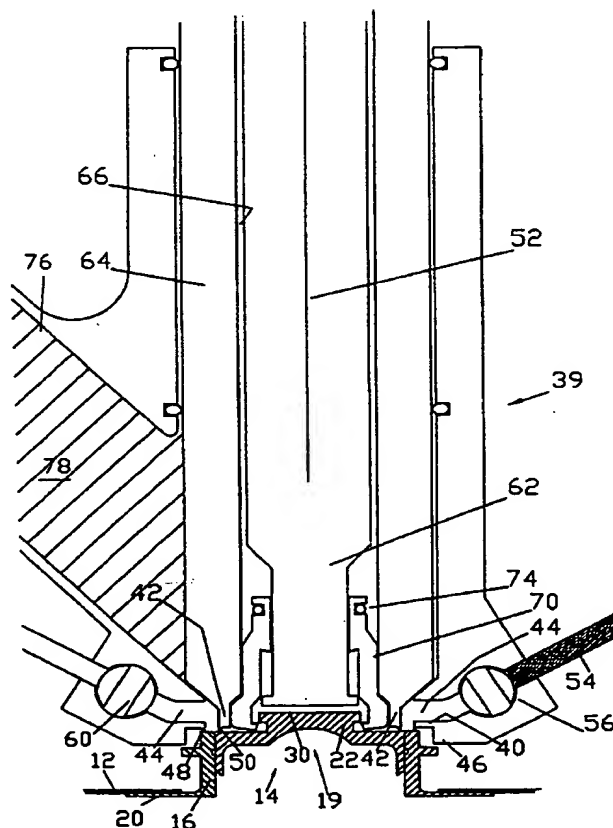
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(54) Title: PLUG AND GLAND ASEPTIC PACKAGE SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A sterilisation and filling apparatus, method and plug arrangement for aseptic filling of sterile containers. The apparatus includes a filling nozzle comprising a tubular body (16) with a flow passage (19) therethrough and a plug (22) closing the flow passage; a sterilisation and filling head (39) movable towards and away from the tubular body with outer (40) and inner (42) annular sealing rings engaging annular sealing faces on the tubular body and plug respectively and a sterilisation chamber (44) located inwards of the outer sealing ring, and a cavity in the filling head to receive the plug. Sterilisation fluid supply means supplies fluid to the chamber (44). Plug extractor jaws (70) extract the plug (22) from the tubular body (16) and store the plug in the cavity in the head and filling means fill the container through the head. The plug (22) includes gripping formations for the jaws (70). The plug (22) and tubular body (16) may include ribs and recesses as retaining means and sealing welds or elastomeric rings cooperative before and/or after filling.



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